

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 126153

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TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS STATE 126153

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC, USINFO WASH INFO
COPENHAGEN JUNE 11, 1973 FROM TEHRAN IS REPEATED TO YOU:
QUOTE

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4061

SECSTATE FOR S/ PRS

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CENTO, MARR

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: CENTO: SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY ROGERS Q AND A PRESS CON-
FERENCE AT TEHRAN AIRPORT JUNE 11.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WANTED TO TAKE
THIS OPPORTUNITY, JUST BEFORE I LEFT, TO MEET WITH YOU
BRIEFLY. WHEN I ARRIVED, I SAID THAT I WOULD TRY TO HAVE
A SHORT MEETING WITH YOU, AND I AM HAPPY TO DO IT. I THINK
THAT IT HAS BEEN A VERY USEFUL, SHORT STAY THAT I HAVE HAD
IN IRAN. AS YOU KNOW, I WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH HIS
IMPERIAL MAJESTY AND HAD A VERY SATISFACTORY DISCUSSION FOR
ALMOST TWO HOURS AND HAD MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. AND I MERELY WANT TO SAY THAT
AS FAR AS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN ARE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 126153

CONCERNED, THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER. THEY ARE EXCELLENT.

3. PRESIDENT NIXON IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT OF THE
SHAHAN- SHAH TO WASHINGTON. THEY HAVE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS FOR

A LONG TIME , AND PRESIDENT NIXON HOLDS HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM. AND SO I CONSIDER ON THE BI- LATERAL BASIS THAT THIS HAS BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT; I AM VERY PRIVILEGED MYSELF TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE AGAIN, AND I WANT TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY. AS FAR AS THE CENTO MEETING WAS CONCERNED, IT GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY FIRST TO MEET WITH ALL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REPRESENTED IN CENTO ON A BI- LATERAL BASIS. WE HAD, I THINK, VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION. THE MEETING ITSELF I THINK, ON THE BASIS OF A CONSENSUS THAT WAS EXPRESSED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, WAS THE BEST ONE I HAVE ATTENDED. THIS IS MY FIFTH CENTO MEETING. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE VERY DIRECT AND FRANK, AND WE HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH IN SOME RESPECTS WAS QUITE UNUSUAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. I THINK THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WILL REFLECT THE SATISFACTORY NATURE OF THE MEETING, AND PARTICULARLY IT WILL STRESS, AS THE CONVERSATIONS THEMSELVES, THE DISCUSSIONS THEMSELVES STRESSED, THE IMPORTANCE THAT IS ATTACHED TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ALL OF THE MEMBER STATES. WE BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND I THINK IT WAS GENERALLY CONCLUDED THAT THIS IS A VERY VALUABLE ALLIANCE. IT IS AN ALLIANCE THAT IS VALUABLE NOT ONLY FOR ITSELF BUT BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ALLIANCES THAT WE HAVE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE RELATIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST. IT PROVIDES A CONTINUATION OF THE STABILITY THAT WE THINK IS NECESSARY FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS, AND SO I AM VERY PLEASED INDEED THAT THE MEETING WENT SO WELL. I THINK THAT CENTO IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO BE A VERY IMPORTANT ALLIANCE, AND IT WILL DEAL ESPECIALLY WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST TODAY IN THE WORLD.

4. I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IMPRESSED WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA. I THINK THE COOPERATION THAT EXISTS, THE GROWING COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS IN THE AREA, IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. CERTAINLY THE PERSIAN GULF IS GOING TO ASSUME GREATER AND UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 126153

GREATER IMPORTANCE AS THE YEARS GO BY. AND IRAN IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN THAT AREA. IT IS ESSENTIAL, WE BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE NATIONS IN THE AREA COOPERATE TOGETHER, PROVIDE REGIONAL COOPERATION, THAT THEY PUT ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES -- AND THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME -- BUT IN THE OVERALL THEY ARE FAIRLY MINOR. THE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS ARE CONSIDERATIONS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA AND THE ABILITY OF THE NATIONS IN THE AREA TO GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER, TO BE SURE THAT THERE IS NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, THAT THERE IS NO SUBVERSION THAT UPSETS THE STABILITY OF THE AREA. AND I AM VERY PLEASED TO SEE THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA SINCE I WAS LAST HERE. I WANT TO AGAIN THANK ALL THE MEMBERS

OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO ARE HERE. I APPRECIATE THEIR COMING TO THE AIRPORT, AND I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS, IF YOU HAVE SOME.

5. QUESTION: SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN BIERMAN OF BBC. YOU SAID THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS, IN SOME RESPECTS, QUITE UNUSUAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. COULD YOU TELL US WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT?

6. SECRETARY ROGERS: YES. USUALLY AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES EVERY MINISTER HAS A SET SPEECH THAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN FOR HIM BY SOMEBODY, AND HE READS IT. AND IT IS PRETTY DULL. THIS TIME THERE WERE NO SET SPEECHES. EVERYONE SPOKE THE THINGS THAT WERE ON HIS MIND. AFTER EACH MINISTER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY WHAT WAS ON HIS MIND AND TO SPEAK QUITE FRANKLY, THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. QUESTIONS WERE ASKED, AND WE HAD A LIVELY EXCHANGE OF OPINION. THE RESULT WAS THAT, I THINK, THERE WAS QUITE A DIFFERENT CLIMATE. IN FACT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAN, WHO SAID THAT HE HAD ATTENDED MEETINGS IN CENTO FOR TEN YEARS, SAID THAT THIS WAS BY FAR THE MOST INTERESTING, THE MOST SATISFACTORY MEETING THAT HE HAD EVER BEEN TO. AND I THINK THAT WAS REFLECTED BY THE COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. CERTAINLY IT IS TRUE, AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED. THIS THE FIFTH YEAR THAT I HAVE ATTENDED.

7. QUESTION: MR. ROGERS, TO WHAT WILL YOU ASCRIBE THE SUCCESS OF THIS MEETING? OF AN ALLIANCE WHICH SOME YEARS AGO THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES WERE TENDING TO WRITE OFF AS A PAPER ALLIANCE?
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 126153

8. SECRETARY: WELL, I THINK THAT THERE IS A TENDENCY, WHEN THE WORLD IS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION TO DETENTE, TO FEEL THAT SOMEHOW ALLIANCES ARE NOT IMPORTANT, AND TO SAY (EACH NATION SO SAY TO ITSELF) WELL, NOW THINGS ARE GOING VERY WELL IN THE WORLD; LET'S JUST PUT ASIDE THESE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE SERVED US WELL IN THE PAST. THIS (MEETING) WAS A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT. IT SEEMED TO ME, OF THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING THE ALLIANCES THAT HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE EAST AND WEST TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. AND WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT AS THE WORLD MOVES AWAY FROM ACTIVE CONFLICT AND AS THE WORLD MOVES AWAY FROM NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION, AND HOPEFULLY MOVES AWAY FROM ANY MAJOR CONFLICTS AMONG THE NATIONS, THAT THERE ARE OTHER DANGERS THAT OCCUR. DANGERS OF SUBVERSION; THINGS OF THAT KIND.

9. AND ALSO, YOU REALIZE THE NECESSITY OF EQUILIBRIUM, STABILITY IF YOU WILL, IN AN AREA. AND THAT CAN ONLY BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY REGIONAL COOPERATION. THIS ORGANIZATION CONSISTS OF NATIONS IN THE REGION THAT WORK WELL TOGETHER. I AM SPEAKING ABOUT IRAN, TURKEY AND PAKISTAN. IT ALSO INCLUDES THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES. YOU PUT THOSE NATIONS TOGETHER, IT SERVES A VERY USEFUL PURPOSE. THE DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON WHAT I THINK IS A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE VALUE OF THIS KIND OF ALLIANCE. NOT AN OLD FASHIONED APPRAISAL, NOT AN APPRAISAL THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

RELEVANT TWENTY YEARS AGO OR FIFTEEN YEARS AGO OR TEN YEARS AGO, BUT AN APPRAISAL THAT IS RELEVANT TODAY. AND THEREFORE I BELIEVE THAT WE LEFT THE MEETING WITH A SORT OF RENEWED INSPIRATION, A RENEWED SPIRIT ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF CENTO.

10. QUESTION: HILARY BROWN, CBS. YOU MENTIONED OR YOU STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF STABILITY IN THE PERSIAN GULF. DOES THE UNITED STATES CONSIDER THE ARMS BUILD- UP IN ALL THESE STATES OR THE RICHER STATES ALONG THE GULF TO BE PART OF THIS STABILITY?

11. SECRETARY: WELL THAT REALLY DEPENDS UPON WHAT IS MEANT BY ARMS BUILDUP. IF ARMS BUILD- UP MEANS AN ARMS RACE, SO THAT EVERYONE IS MADLY ATTEMPTING TO GET A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF ARMS, THAT IS AN UNDESIRABLE SITUATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS HISTORY THAT CERTAINLY TEACHES US THAT IF THERE ARE NATIONS THAT ARE STRONG IN AN AREA-- OR NATIONS THAT HAVE ULTERIOR PURPOSES IN AN AREA ARE STRONG AND THERE ARE WEAK NATION NEARBY-- THAT IS AN INVITATION TO TROUBLE. SO A REASONABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY STRENGTH VIS- A- VIS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 126153

THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF POSSIBLE ADVERSARIES IS NOT A BAD SITUATION; IT IS A STABILIZING SITUATION. IN A SENSE THAT IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, OR TO PUT IT DIFFERENTLY, BETWEEN THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO. SO WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ARMED FORCES IN IRAN, THE DESIRE ON THE PART OF SAUDI ARABIA TO BE STRONGER MILITARILY CAUSES ANY DANGER. WE THINK IT IS STABILIZING TO THAT EXTENT.

12. QUESTION: WERE THE SOVIET UNION TO SUPPLY ARMS SAY AT THE SAME LEVEL-- TO THE IRAQIS, WOULD THIS NOT CAUSE THE ARMS RACE WHICH YOU SAY WOULD BE A BAD THING?

13. SECRETARY: WELL IT DEPENDS UPON THE EXTENT. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CONVERSE? SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A SITUATION WHERE THE SOVIET UNION IS SUPPLYING TREMENDOUS AMOUNTS OF ARMS TO ONE COUNTRY AND THE NEIGHBOR COUNTRY DOES NOT HAVE ANY. THAT IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION. IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU HAVE A STRONG NATION, STRONG MILITARILY, THAT HAS AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS AND A VERY WEAK NATION NEXT TO IT, THAT IS AN INVITATION TO TROUBLE.

13. QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, A DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION OF CENTO DEFINES THE PURPOSE OF CENTO IN THE BEGINNING AS TO GUARANTEE PROTECTION AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION IF IT SHOULD THREATEN THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REGION AFTER WORLD WAR II. DOES THAT CONTINUE TO BE THE PURPOSE OF CENTO?

14. SECRETARY: WELL I DON'T WANT TO-- I AM SURE YOU WOULD HAVE TO READ THE WHOLE PAMPHLET TO GET ITS THRUST. CERTAINLY THAT WAS ONE OF THE PURPOSES THAT WAS BEHIND CENTO AT ITS INCEPTION, BUT, AS I SAY, I DO NOT THINK IT IS NECESSARY EVERYTIME WE HAVE A MEETING, TO RESTATE THE PURPOSES. WE THINK THE ALLIANCE, THIS ALLIANCE AND OUR ALLIANCE WITH THE NATO COUNTRIES AND OUR ALLIANCE

WITH SEATO ARE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE POLICY WE DEVELOPED,
AFTER WORLD WAR II, OF MUTUAL SECURITY.

15. AND WE THINK THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRENGTH IN THESE AREAS,
THE ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER CLOSELY AS WE ARE DOING, PROVIDES
AN EQUILIBRIUM, IF YOU WILL, WHICH MAKES FOR STABILITY IN THE
WORLD, AND THAT IS WHY WE THINK THE
ALLIANCES ARE IMPORTANT, THAT IS WHY WE WANTED A TIME WHEN WE
ARE ENTERING INTO MUCH BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 126153

UNION, MUCH BETTER RELATIONS WITH -- WELL NOT ONLY MUCH
BETTER -- BUT (DIPLOMATIC) RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE' S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THAT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT FORGET THAT
THE ALLIANCES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE VERY SUCCESS THAT WE
ARE NOW SEEING IN THE WORLD, AND WE WANT TO CONTINUE
TO MAINTAIN THOSE ALLIANCES.

16. QUESTION: ARE WE CORRECT TO ASSUME THAT PAKISTAN
HAS AGREED TO CONTINUE THE ALLIANCE? THERE WAS SOME THOUGHTS
THAT THE PAKISTANIS ARE NOT TOO HAPPY WITH THE ALLIANCE.

17. SECRETARY: WELL, I WOULD NOT WANT TO SPEAK FOR PAKISTAN.
I WILL MERELY SAY THAT WE WERE VERY PLEASED ABOUT THE LEVEL
OF REPRESENTATION AT THIS MEETING.

18. QUESTION: WELL, LET ME PUT IT ANOTHER WAY. HAVE
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE AGREED TO CONTINUE IT ?

19. SECRETARY: WELL, AS I SAY, THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE
ALLIANCE AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING, AND IT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL
MEETING. AND WE ARE VERY AHPPY AT THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION
OF PAKISTAN.

20. QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, SOME OF THE REGIONAL
MEMBERS, IN FACT ALL OF THE REGIONAL MEMBERS SEEMED QUITE
CONCERNED, IF NOT ALARMED, ABOUT THE THREAT OF SUBVERSION.
NOW, YOU HAVE NOT MENTIONED THIS YOURSELF ARE YOU...

21. SECRETARY: OH, YES, I MENTIONED IT. I MENTIONED
SUBVERSION.

22. QUESTION: IS IT SERIOUS?

23. SECRETARY: WELL, CERTAINLY SUBVERSION IS A MATTER OF
CONCERN TO THE NATIONS IN THE REGION. CERTAINLY SUBVERSION
OCCURS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. IT IS ONE OF THE THINGS
THAT HAS TO BE GUARED AGAINST. AS I SAID A LITTLE EARLIER,
AS THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR DIMINISHES, AND I BELIEVE IT
HAS, AND THE GHREAT OF WAR BETWEEN THE MAJOR POWERS IS LESSENEED,
SUBVERSION IS AN NATURAL WAY TO SPREAD IDEOLOGY. IT IS NOT
UNEXPECTED. AND I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR NATIONS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 126153

IN THE REGION TO CONSIDER IT, TO GUARD AGAINST IT, AND TO BE SURE THAT IT DOES NOT CAUSE INSTABILITY. THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTIONS IS YES.

24. QUESTION: DO YOU THINK, MR. SECRETARY, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO WATCH OUT FOR SUBVERSION AT THIS TIME WHEN THE SOVIET UNION APPEARS TO BE MOVING TOWARDS DETENTE, OR AT LEAST FOLLOWING THE POLICIES OF DETENTE?

25. SECRETARY: HERE AGAIN, I WANT TO BE SURE WE UNDERSTAND DEFINITIONS. WE ARE CONVINCED, IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE SOVIET UNION SERIOUSLY DESIRES TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH US. AND WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SERIOUS ABOUT IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AND PEOPLE REFER TO THAT AS DETENTE, IF YOU WILL, AND WE ARE VERY PLEASED ABOUT THAT; AND WE ARE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. BUT THAT DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT THEY HAVE CHANGED THEIR IDEOLOGY. IT DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO ATTEMPT TO EXTEND THEIR INFLUENCE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND IT DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT MILITARY STRENGTH IS NO LONGER NECESSARY.

26. AS A MATTER OF FACT IT SUGGEST JUST THE OPPOSITE TO US. THE FACT THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM IS BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN STRONGER, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN STRONG AS A NATION AND BECAUSE WE HAVE ALLIANCES THAT ARE STRONG. SO WE THINK THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN OUR MILITARY STRENGTH, IT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN OUR MILITARY ALLIANCES, IF YOU WILL, AND TO GUARD AGAINST SUBVERSION.

27. IF WE SEE, AS TIMES GOES ON, THAT THE IMPROVED RELATIONS THAT WE ARE WITNESSING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MEAN THAT SUBVERSION IS NOT GOING TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF EXTENDING INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IF THE WORLD, ALL OF A SUDDEN IS GOING TO BE A PLACE OF HIGH IDEALS, AND GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE CONFLICT, AND THERE IS GOING TO BE NO ATTEMPT TO EXTEND IDEOLOGIES BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER, FINE, BUT UNTIL THAT TIME COMES, WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT WE MOVE SENSIBLY, IN THE DIRECTION OF IMPROVED RELATIONS; NOT BEING EUPHORIC ABOUT IT BUT BEING REALISTIC

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 126153

ABOUT IT AND DOING THE THINGS I HAVE SUGGESTED. I WILL TAKE ONE OR TWO MORE (QUESTIONS) BECAUSE I HAVE TO...

28. QUESTION: THE SECRETARY GENERAL, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE JUST BEFORE YOURS, SPEAKING ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SUBVERSION

AND RANGING FROM OMAN, THE PERSIAN GULF-- HOW FAR DOES THIS AREA OF, HOW FAR DOES IT GO -- THE ARABIAN PENINSULA -- I MEAN HOW FAR DOES THIS OVERLAP WITH THE CENTO: HOW FAR DOES THIS COME WITHIN CENTO' S ORBIT OR...?

29. SECRETARY: I DO NOT KNOW IF WE HAVE EVER ATTEMPTED TO MAKE SUCH SPECIFIC DELINEATIONS, OBVIOUSLY IF THE PERSIAN GULF BECAME AN AREA OF SERIOUS CONFLICT, IT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IN THE CENTO REGIONS. SO SINCE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IT, I GUESS YOU CAN SAY WE ARE MORE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED ABOUT ACTION IN THE MEMBER STATES. BUT CERTAINLY THE CONDITIONS THAT OCCUR, THE SITUATION THAT DEVELOP IN THE REGION AFFECT THE MEMBER STATES, SO WE ARE CONCERNED, I WILL TAKE ONE OR TWO MORE QUESTIONS. YES.

30. QUESTION: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

31. SECRETARY: WELL, DID I UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION? DO I THINK THAT CENTO SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION? YES, YES, AND I THINK THAT WE ARE, AND I THINK THAT WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION. I, SINCE I WAS HERE LAST I THINK THERE HAS BEEN TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT AND IT IS VERY FAVORABLE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. END QUOTE. HELMS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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